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Chair: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kelapile

Contents

Agenda item 157: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

Agenda item 129: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Revised estimates resulting from the increase in the number of members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment pursuant to article 5 of the Optional Protocol

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 157: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (A/65/509 and A/65/571)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's note on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/65/509), recalled that, by its resolution 64/283, the General Assembly had approved a budget of $938,000,000 for the maintenance of the Mission. The Assembly had also noted that resource requirements related to support by the Mission for the referendums in Southern Sudan and Abyei had not yet been determined and that no provision for them had been included in the budget for 2010/11, and decided to revert to that issue, as required, during its sixty-fifth session to allocate the necessary resources.

2. By its resolution 1919 (2010), the Security Council had extended the mandate of UNMIS in order to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and emphasized the Mission's lead role in international efforts to provide assistance, as requested, to support preparations for the referendums, which were scheduled for January 2011.

3. The additional financial requirements to support the referendums were estimated at $81,449,700, comprising 596 temporary positions, as well as eight rotary-wing aircraft, vehicles and equipment. The Mission had the capacity to absorb 90 positions, resulting in a net additional staffing requirement of 506 positions. Given the urgent need for those positions, he had approved, on an exceptional basis, the establishment of 506 temporary positions under general temporary assistance for the period from 1 August 2010 through 31 March 2011. The deployment of staff encumbering those positions had started in August 2010 and full deployment was expected to be completed in November 2010.

4. He recalled that, in response to a request from the parties to the peace process, the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan had been established as a means of building trust in the process and fostering acceptance of the outcomes of the referendums. The Panel, which had been established in September 2010 for a period of six months, required 41 temporary positions. Given the urgent need for those additional staff, he had approved, on an exceptional basis, the establishment of 41 temporary positions under general temporary assistance for a period of six months. The cost of the Panel was estimated at $4,255,900, including $4,075,800 in staff-related costs.

5. The total additional requirements related to the Mission's support for the referendums were estimated at $85,705,600. Those requirements represented 9.1 per cent of the approved 2010/11 budget, which the Mission did not have the capacity to absorb.

6. The actions requested of the General Assembly were set out in paragraph 13 of the Secretary-General's note.

7. **Mr. Kelapile** (Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/65/571), said that, in addition to temporary staffing requirements, one of the major components of the Secretary-General's request concerned air operations, for which $29,396,500 was being sought. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the eight additional helicopters needed were already in the mission area and operational. However, the Advisory Committee had also been informed of the decision not to renew the contract of an aviation unit consisting of six military utility helicopters beyond 31 October 2010. The Advisory Committee therefore emphasized the need for replacement air assets to be deployed expeditiously.

8. With regard to the Mission's capacity to absorb additional costs, the Advisory Committee had been informed that, as at 1 November 2010, expenditures by UNMIS amounted to nearly half of the appropriation. The Advisory Committee encouraged the Mission to continue monitoring its expenditure pattern and, where feasible, to explore further potential for absorption of costs associated with its support for the referendums.

9. Although the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should accept the course of action proposed by the Secretary-General, it emphasized that the actual deployment of the temporary positions requested for the support of the referendums should take into account the situation on the ground.

10. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement had reached its

most crucial stage and that international support would be critical for the full implementation of all remaining tasks under the Agreement. The Group was therefore committed to holding constructive discussions on the Secretary-General's proposal in informal consultations, with a view to reaching agreement on the action to be taken by the General Assembly.

11. **Mr. Abay** (Ethiopia) said that the upcoming referendums were the culmination of a lengthy peace process in the Sudan, and a fair and free vote was crucial to the country's future stability and security. The successful conduct of the referendums would be of tremendous significance to the entire African continent, while failure could prove catastrophic. He therefore wished to affirm his Government's solidarity with the people and leaders of the Sudan and its determination to do what it could to facilitate the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and ensure a smooth transition to the post-referendum era.

12. The African countries' unreserved commitment to the peace process in the Sudan was reflected by the tens of thousands of troops they had contributed to UNMIS and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Although the primary responsibility for the success of the referendums lay with the Sudanese people and leadership, the international community also had a critical role to play. His delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposal for an additional appropriation in order to enable the Mission to support the referendums.

13. **Mr. Elhag** (Sudan) said that, while the referendums might appear to be a purely technical process to many observers, they were far more than that to the Sudanese people. The decision to hold the referendums was an expression of their desire to pay any price, including the partition of their country into two States, in order to end one of the longest wars in Africa's history.

14. The current agenda item was a sensitive matter because the referendums would determine the Sudan's destiny. Recalling that the international community had been the Sudan's partner throughout the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, he said that his delegation expected the partnership to continue until the conclusion of the peace process. The participation of the United Nations should be in line with expectations and stated commitments. Inadequate preparation for the referendums would result in a catastrophe. The General Assembly should therefore ensure that all United Nations participation took account of the situation on the ground.

Agenda item 129: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Revised estimates resulting from the increase in the number of members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment pursuant to article 5 of the Optional Protocol (A/65/500 and A/65/574)

15. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the Secretary-General's report on revised estimates resulting from the increase in the number of members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment pursuant to article 5 of the Optional Protocol (A/65/500), said that the fiftieth instrument of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment had been deposited with the Secretary-General in September 2009. Pursuant to article 5 of the Optional Protocol, after the fiftieth ratification or accession, the membership of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment would increase from 10 to 25. She also recalled that, in paragraph 23.34 of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/64/6 (Sect. 23)), the Secretary-General had informed the General Assembly that the expansion of the Subcommittee's membership was expected in the biennium 2010-2011.

16. The additional requirements to support the Subcommittee's activities were estimated at $2,233,500 for 2011 and $5,474,000 for the biennium 2012-2013. It was proposed that the total additional requirements of $2,233,500 for 2011 should be charged against the contingency fund for the biennium 2010-2011 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($1,164,600); section 23, Human rights ($996,800); and section 28E, Administration, Geneva ($72,100), of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. The details were set forth in part IV of the report.

17. Under section 2, the estimated additional resources for the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva would be required primarily because of the addition of Arabic, French and Russian as working languages of the Subcommittee. Based on an analysis of the Division's overall documentation workload, it was proposed that the use of contractual translation should be increased for some documentation that did not have confidentiality requirements and deadline restrictions and that the in-house resources currently engaged in processing non-confidential documentation should be redirected to the processing of documentation related to the Optional Protocol.

18. The reallocation of the in-house translation workload and the expansion of contractual translation were feasible, provided that the quality control capacity was increased in line with the increased use of contractual translation. The Secretariat therefore proposed to establish, effective 1 January 2011, two P-5 and two P-4 posts at an estimated cost of $464,600 in order to ensure that sufficient quality control and revision capacity was in place.

19. Under section 23, Human rights, it was estimated that an expanded Subcommittee would give rise to an additional requirement of $241,600 for the establishment of three new posts (one P-3, one P-2 and one General Service (Other level)) to provide support to the Subcommittee.

20. For the biennium 2012-2013, the estimated requirements of $5,474,000 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The Secretary-General's conclusions and the action requested of the General Assembly were detailed in part V of the report.

21. **Mr. Kelapile** (Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/65/574), said that, with regard to the request for four new posts and additional contractual translation resources for the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Advisory Committee recommended the establishment of two P-5 and two P-4 posts on a temporary basis, within existing resources, to meet the immediate needs of the Division. The Advisory Committee further recommended that the continued need for the four temporary posts should be addressed in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013. The Advisory Committee also recommended that the proposed amount of $700,000 for contractual translation under section 2 of the programme budget should be accommodated within the resources appropriated under the programme budget for 2010-2011 and reported in the context of the second performance report.

22. With regard to the additional requirements under section 23, Human rights, the Advisory Committee recommended that one P-3 and one General Service (Other level) post should be established as temporary posts to be accommodated within existing resources; the continued need for those posts should be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013.

23. The non-post resources should be adjusted on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning the proposed posts.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.